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ABSTRACT

5 An impact energy transmitting arrangement (10) for transmitting energy, which arises during impact between a vehicle (12) on which the arrangement (10) is mounted and a foreign body, to a vehicle structure (14). The arrangement includes first means (18) displaceable in a first direction, and second means (20) adapted for co-operation with the first means. The first and second means are operable such that the arrangement, below a first predetermined value of a parameter representative of the energy to be transmitted, presents a first resistance-to-displacement value and, above the first predetermined value, presents a second resistance-to-displacement value. The first resistance-to-displacement value is greater than the second resistance-to-displacement value. In this manner, a bumper assembly which is stiff at very low speeds is rendered less stiff at higher speeds which otherwise could cause injury to pedestrians.

(Fig. 2)